

20 April 1976

Major General George J. Keegan, Jr.
Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence
Department of the Air Force
Washington, D. C. 20330

Dear George:

Just a note to thank you for the copies of the seventh and eighth volumes of the "Soviet Military Thought" series. These books are indeed a significant contribution to understanding Soviet attitudes in the training of their Armed Forces. I am most grateful to you for sending them to me.

With every good wish,

Faithfully,

Doc

Vernon A. Walters
Lieutenant General, USA

USAF review(s) completed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
20330



41 MAR 1976

Lieutenant General Vernon A. Walters
Deputy Director, CIA
Washington DC 20505

Dear General Walters

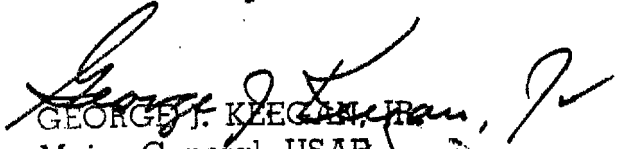
Enclosed are copies of Military Pedagogy and Military Psychology, the seventh and eighth volumes in our "Soviet Military Thought" series. These volumes provide valuable insights into Soviet training techniques used throughout their armed forces. The senior Soviet military leadership clearly recognizes the importance of these subjects as evidenced by the following 1974 quote from the Soviet annual publication Military Academies and Schools:

Serious attention is paid to the military pedagogic preparation of students and cadets in military schools and academies. With this aim, a course in military psychology and pedagogy is given in the majority of secondary and higher military educational establishments.

Further evidence of the importance given to these particular books is demonstrated by their being listed as recommended reading in the "Soldier's Bookshelf" section of recent editions of the Calendar of a Soldier. Military Psychology was listed in the 1973 and 1974 editions and Military Pedagogy was listed in the 1974 and 1975 editions.

With these volumes we are continuing our efforts to make significant Soviet military writings available in the public domain. I believe these books contribute substantially to our awareness of current Soviet attitudes toward preparing their armed forces for combat. I trust you will find these books to be worthy successors to those volumes already published.

Warmest regards


GEORGE J. KIEGAN, JR.
Major General, USAF
Vice Chief of Staff, Intelligence



MILITARY PSYCHOLOGY
(A SOVIET VIEW)

Military Psychology is the eighth in the "Soviet Military Thought" series, translated and published under the auspices of the United States Air Force. The original Russian edition was published in the summer of 1972 by the Military Publishing House of the Ministry of Defense of the USSR in 150,000 copies. It was written by a group of authors, who are mainly researchers or graduates of the Lenin Military - Political Academy.

Military Psychology is an introductory level textbook which presents the basic principles of Soviet psychology and considers the application of these psychological principles to the military context. Emphasis is given throughout the book to the role in psychology in maintaining discipline and in the general psychological preparation of the Soviet soldier, with due attention to conditions of nuclear war and the psychological stresses imposed. Soviet psychology's foundation in Marxist-Leninist philosophy is emphasized as is the importance of political ideology in the application of psychological principles.

The book is divided into five basic parts. Each topic begins with an introductory discussion of a specific area from general psychology and is followed by an exposition of the relevance of the general principles to a military context. After a general introduction to military psychology, the authors examine mental processes and stated under conditions of military activity. This is followed by a discussion of the next section presents an examination of the psychology of the primary military collective. The book concludes with a psychological analysis of service and combat activities.

The overriding theme of Military Psychology is the need to train and mentally prepare the Soviet armed forces to sustain combat during high stress operations such as a nuclear war.

MILITARY PEDAGOGY

The 1973 edition of Military Pedagogy is the probable revision of an earlier work of the same title published in 1966. It is the seventh volume in the Soviet Military Thought series. Written by a group of authors, the work is edited by Colonels A. M. Danchenko and I. F. Vydrin, both candidates of pedagogic sciences.

Four major sections constitute the organizational structure of the book.

SECTION ONE: "General Problems of Soviet Military Pedagogy" defines the subject and its tasks, provides a historical survey of its development and focuses attention on military pedagogy under present conditions. It is interesting to note the Soviet attention to viewing general, "theoretical" education and "polytechnicalization" of instruction as a foundation for mastering the skills associated with complex weaponry.

SECTION TWO: "Military Didactics" discusses the theory, principles, forms and methods of instructions and examines the overall development of a soldier's skills and abilities.

SECTION THREE: "The Theory of Education" explains the communist essence of personnel education, both from an individual and unit basis. The principle of one-man command is viewed as the key to a successfully unified and coordinated education program.

SECTION FOUR: "The Political Worker as Military Pedagogue" specifically addresses the pervasive responsibilities of the deputy commander for political affairs. These responsibilities range from a strong, personal communist conviction, dedication to self improvement in military and political affairs and devotion to the commander, to a complete mastery of the pedagogic processes. Members of the unit collective, particularly the officers and Komsomol personnel are seen as assistants in the overall education function.

The book concludes with an expose entitled "Contemporary Bourgeois Military Pedagogy and Its Reactionary Essence."

The purpose of this book is to provide an educational and training framework from which the Soviet armed forces can improve their levels of military preparedness.